DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Friday, January 9, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	06:00pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:17am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	10°C
Maximum	24°C
Humidity	27%
Outlook	Sunny

Australia get over the line in Sydney for 4-1 Ashes triumph

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New ferry terminal opens at port

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Maritime Affairs Minister Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry on Thursday inaugurated a new ferry terminal at Karachi Port by unveiling a commemorative plaque.

Addressing the ceremony as the chief guest, he said that the terminal marked the revival of maritime passenger services in Pakistan after the discontinuation of the historic *Safina-i-Arab* service in 1976.

The terminal is designed to accommodate up to 200 to 250 passengers at a time and supports the national vision of promoting sustainable and economical transportation through sea, he said.

The minister stated that the inauguration of the terminal is fully aligned with the strategic guidance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif which is translated into the Maritime Vision 2047-2147.

He emphasised that the initiative reflects the ministry's strategic focus on promoting connectivity, facilitating passenger movement and religious tourism through sea routes.

He described the commencement of ferry terminal operations as a significant milestone towards harnessing the potential of the Blue Economy, opening new avenues for maritime tourism and diversifying port activities beyond traditional cargo handling.

Earlier, Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Chairman (retired) Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed, informed the audiance that the terminal has been developed with a strong focus on passenger convenience, safety and operational efficiency, while engaging all national stakeholders.

He said that the terminal is equipped with modern facilities in line with international standards.

FEDERAL Minister for Maritime Affairs Chaudhry Junaid Anwar and senior officials of his ministry pose for a group photo after inauguration of the Ferry Terminal at the Karachi Port on Thursday.—INP

Major rail-based transport plan approved to connect cities

Murad allocates Rs6.6bn for comprehensive rehabilitation of railway system; Hanif Abbasi says Centre-Sindh cooperation will open a new chapter in PR history

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: The Sindh and federal governments on Thursday approved a massive rail-based suburban transport plan aimed at reviving the province's railway network and providing city-to-city connectivity for nearly 37 million people, covering 67 per cent of the province's population.

At a meeting with Federal Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah also pledged to immediately allocate Rs6.6 billion to replace 100 of the province's 308 manned railway crossings and carry out a comprehensive rehabilitation of the rail system.

He also directed to roll out six new trains in the first phase, with another six to follow in the next phase, while ordering the release of the money without delay.

The chief minister said that the government's objective was to connect remote areas of Sindh with modern, affordable and safe transport facilities. "The railways project will reduce traffic pressure on roads and provide safe 'city centre to city centre' connectivity for commuters and employees," he said.

Minister Abbasi said that cooperation between the federal and Sindh governments would open a new chapter in the history of Pakistan Railways, adding that the railways ministry would extend full technical support and provide the required right of way for the project.

The two sides also agreed to finalise and sign a 25-year partnership framework agreement for long-term collaboration on railway development projects.

The Sindh cabinet had in December approved the Rs6.6bn railway initiative covering an 858-km network across six key corridors, from Kotri-Dadu to Hyderabad-Badin. The initiative also included funding for 100

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Two suspected robbers killed in Pak Colony 'encounter'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Police on Thursday evening claimed to have gunned down two suspected robbers in an alleged encounter in the Pak Colony area.

South-DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that two suspects had snatched cell phones from citizens near the Degree College. The police responded to the ongoing robbery, and an exchange of fire ensued.

After the exchange of fire, two suspects were gunned down.

Later, they were identified with the help of a Talash device as Arshad Khan and Saeed Awan.

The DIG described the killed suspects as "notorious criminals" as their past criminal record had been obtained by the police.

The killed suspects were wanted in more than 12 cases of cash snatching, dacoities and robbery with murder.

The bodies were shifted to the the Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK) for medico-legal formalities.

Long vehicle knocks down young man

A young man was killed when a trailer struck him in Shershah area on Thursday evening, police and rescue services officials said.

South-DIG Syed Asad Raza confirmed the incident, saying that a recklessly driven trailer claimed life of the young man at Shershah Bridge, within the jurisdiction of Mauripur police.

The driver of the vehicle, however, managed to flee the scene.

The body was taken to the CHK for legal formalities, where his identity could not be immediately ascertained.

Couple shot dead in Sohrab Goth 'for honour'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A young couple was gunned down in the name of 'honour' in the Sohrab Goth area on Thursday, according to police and rescue services officials.

They said that Nasrullah Bachal, 30, and his wife Latifan Magsi, 28, were shot dead inside their home in Lasi Goth.

Sohrab Goth SHO Gul Baig told ***Dawn*** that the victims had married of their freewill in Larkana district about five-six months ago. He said the man belonged to the Langah clan and his wife to the Magsi tribe.

They had moved to Karachi and were living in a rented home.

He said the double murder appeared to be related to so-called honour, adding that according to initial inquiry, the woman's relatives traced them out and allegedly shot them dead.

The police called the Crime Scene Unit to collect evidence. The bodies were shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for legal formalities.

Meanwhile, Sindh IGP Javed Alam Odho has taken notice of the couple's murder. His spokesman Syed Saad Ali said that the provincial police chief has sought details of the incident from the DIG East and directed him to ensure immediate arrest of the killers.

Lawyers agree to stop infighting over YouTuber's assault matter

Rivals undertake to withdraw cases, complaints against each other

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: The issue of the alleged physical assault on YouTuber Rajab Butt by some lawyers on the City Courts premises appeared to have been settled as lawyers from both sides on Thursday agreed to withdraw the cases, and also the applications filed before different bar bodies, against each other.

The saga began when the YouTuber was allegedly assaulted on Dec 29, 2025, while appearing for the hearing of his bail plea in a case registered against him for allegedly hurting people's religious sentiments.

The violent incident also drew a reaction from Sindh Home Minister Zia Lanjar, who termed the matter unfortunate and regrettable, and told the media that it was not a good thing for society that lawyers, instead of protecting the law, had taken the law into their own hands.

In response to the assault, Butt's counsel, Mian Ali Ashfaq, registered a case against Advocate Riaz Ali Solangi, Advocate Abdul Fatah and 15 to 20 other lawyers under Sections 147 (punishment for rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), 382 (theft after preparation made for causing death, hurt or restraint), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 337-A (punishment for shajjah) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Meanwhile, on a request by the Karachi Bar Association (KBA) to the Punjab Bar Council (PBC) to take action against counsel Mian Ashfaq, the council on Jan 1 suspended his licence to practice and referred the matter to its disciplinary committee.

On Thursday, Mian Ashfaq visited the KBA on its request and held a press conference, flanked by KBA president Aamir Nawaz Warraich, general secretary Rehman Korai, senior counsel Rehan Aziz, advocate Solangi — the complainant in the case pertaining to hurting religious sentiments against the YouTuber — and advocate Fatah, in the committee room of the KBA office.

After holding talks in a separate room, Mian Ashfaq told the media that, after detailed discussions on all matters that arose after the incident, both parties had agreed — without any conditions imposed on either side — to withdraw the cases registered against each other, without specifying whether the case against Butt for allegedly hurting religious sentiments would also be withdrawn.

In his talk, he also praised the KBA for providing a platform to resolve the issue between the two sides.

Speaking to the media, Mr Warraich said the incident had tarnished the reputation of the legal community.

He urged lawyers to confine themselves to their role as counsel in matters relating to religion rather than becoming complainants, and stressed that they should not be involved in assaults.

He added that every litigant who approaches the courts must be treated with respect.

It is pertinent to mention here that Butt is required to appear before the court in Karachi on Jan 13, in the case pertaining to allegedly hurting religious sentiments, for confirmation of his interim bail or otherwise.

KMC disposes of Rs227m scrap, procures heavy vehicles

Mayor Wahab says induction of vehicles will help strengthen, improve delivery of municipal services

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has inducted new heavy vehicles into its fleet, financed through proceeds generated from the auction of obsolete vehicles.

Talking to the media at the vehicles' induction ceremony held at KMC head office on Thursday, Mayor Murtaza Wahab called it a significant step toward enhancing operational efficiency and strengthening municipal service delivery.

He said that the procurement of the new vehicles was financed through proceeds generated from the auction of obsolete vehicles, with an allocation of Rs110 million approved for the purchase of heavy-duty vehicles, including mount trucks.

The mayor formally handed over the vehicles to the Engineering Department, Anti-Encroachment Department, Parks Department and Veterinary Department.

"With the approval of the City Council, a decision was taken to auction unused and scrap items," he said. "As a result, we generated Rs227 million. Using these funds, five new heavy vehicles were purchased. Two vehicles have been allocated to the E&M Department, while one vehicle each has been provided to the Anti-Encroachment, Parks, and Veterinary departments," the mayor added.

He further stated that five more vehicles will soon be purchased for various departments, while the repair of five buses has also been completed.

Accompanied by Parliamentary Leader in the City Council Karamullah Waqasi, Deputy Parliamentary Leader Dil Muhammad, Jaman Darwan and KMC officers, the mayor said that the KMC is incurring expenditures for the improvement of civic amenities from its own resources and budget. The KMC's revenue, he said, has been increased through a positive strategy and that available resources are being utilised in an effective manner.

"The KMC now has sufficient resources to carry out development works simultaneously, from neighbourhood streets to major infrastructure projects," he shared, adding that "the new heavy vehicles will prove effective in field operations, will accelerate the process of removing encroachments in the city, and will further improve work related to parks and urban beautification."

These measures, he added, will significantly enhance the overall performance of KMC departments.

Speaking about development projects, the Karachi mayor said that work is underway on Jahangir Road and the alternative road of Natha Khan Bridge, and that he himself will visit these projects. Work on the Bhains Colony flyover is also progressing rapidly, and he expressed hope that this long-standing issue of the people of Malir will be resolved within the next few weeks. He announced that a new flyover will be constructed on the route from Shahrah-i-Bhutto to the airport, adding that the target is to complete ongoing development works within 100 days.

"As I said earlier, this year is the year of development projects and the KMC is going to spend Rs46 billion across the city. Development activities are underway in every district and every area of the city, and the progress is clearly visible. Some Rs600 million will be spent in the Old City area, benefiting residents of Jodia Bazaar, Lee Market, and Napier Road, while the ongoing works on Shahrah-i-Liaquat will also be completed soon.

He further said that the Korangi Causeway Bridge will soon be opened for citizens, while the EBM Causeway has been completed by the representatives of PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. He added that the Baloch Colony Expressway, Murghi Khana Flyover, and other projects will also soon be presented to the citizens as gifts. It was also announced that different phases of the Red Line project will be opened for the public in March and July.

SOME of the heavy vehicles inducted by KMC.—Dawn